

**Amendments to the Specification:**

1. Page 1, before line 4 but after the title, please insert the following:

**CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

The present application is a U.S. National Stage of International Application No. PCT/EP2005/051898, filed April 27, 2005, which claims priority of German Patent Application No. 10 2004 020 711.9, filed April 27, 2004, and German Patent Application No. 10 2005 017 032.3, filed April 13, 2005.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

1. Field of the Invention

2. Page 1, before line 7, please insert the following:

2. Discussion of Background Information

3. Please delete the paragraph at page 3, lines 8-11.

4. Page 3, before line 13, please insert the following:

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides a cosmetic formulation which is based on a microemulsion and comprises (a) one or more antiperspirant active ingredients

and/or one or more deodorant active ingredients and (b) at least one  $\alpha$ -hydroxy-carboxylic acid.

In one aspect of the formulation, component (b) may comprise mandelic acid.

In another aspect of the formulation, the microemulsion may comprise an O/W microemulsion.

In yet another aspect, the formulation may comprise a microemulsion gel. For example, the formulation may comprise an oil-in-water microemulsion which comprises an oil phase, a water phase and less than 20% by weight of one or more emulsifiers, based on the total weight of the microemulsion. The oil phase may be essentially composed of constituents of low volatility.

The one or more emulsifiers may comprise one or more O/W emulsifiers selected from polyethoxylated, polypropoxylated and/or polyethoxylated and polypropoxylated O/W emulsifiers and may further comprise one or more optional W/O emulsifiers.

The microemulsion may be obtainable by bringing a mixture comprising the water phase, the oil phase, the one or more O/W emulsifiers, the one or more optional

W/O emulsifiers and one or more other optional components selected from auxiliaries, additives and active ingredients to a temperature within or above the phase inversion temperature range and subsequently cooling the mixture to room temperature.

The droplets of the discontinuous oil phase of the microemulsion may be joined together by one or more crosslinker substances whose molecules comprise at least one hydrophilic region which has a size suitable for bridging the distance between the droplets and at least one hydrophobic region which is able to enter into hydrophobic interaction with the droplets.

In a still further aspect of the cosmetic formulation of the present invention, the formulation may comprise one or more antiperspirant active ingredients. In one aspect, the one or more antiperspirant active ingredients may comprise one or more aluminum salts such as, e.g., aluminum chlorohydrate and/or activated aluminum chlorohydrate.

In another aspect, the ratio of the one or more antiperspirant active ingredients to the at least one  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid may be from 15 : 1 to 1 : 1, e.g., from 12 : 1 to 2 : 1, or from 10 : 1 to 2.5 : 1.

In yet another aspect, the formulation of the present invention may comprise from

1% to 35% by weight, e.g., from 1% to 25% by weight, or from 1% to 20% by weight, of the one or more antiperspirant active ingredients, based on the total weight of the formulation.

In another aspect of the cosmetic formulation of the present invention, the formulation may comprise from 0.1% to 10% by weight, e.g., from 0.1% to 8% by weight, of component (b), based on the total weight of the formulation.

In yet another aspect, the formulation may have a defined yield point, for example, a yield point of from 40 to 120 Pa, determined at 25°C by means of a shear stress time ramp of 40 Pa/min.

In a still further aspect, the formulation may be suitable for application to the human skin and/or the formulation may be transparent.

The present invention also provides an antiperspirant and/or deodorant product which comprises the cosmetic formulation of the present invention, including the various aspects thereof set forth above. For example, the product may be transparent.

The present invention also provides a process for making a transparent

antiperspirant or deodorant product. The process comprises combining an O/W microemulsion, at least one  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, and one or more antiperspirant active ingredients and/or one or more deodorant active ingredients.

In one aspect of the process, the at least one  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid may comprise mandelic acid.

The present invention also provides a process for making an O/W microemulsion with a defined yield point. The process comprises combining an O/W microemulsion without defined yield point with at least one  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and one or more antiperspirant active ingredients and/or one or more deodorant active ingredients.

In one aspect of the process, the at least one  $\alpha$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid may comprise mandelic acid.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

5. Page 13, line 1: Please replace "CLAIMS" by "WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:"